

**Halstead Rural District Council**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR**

**1972**

**OF THE**

## **Medical Officer**

**OF HEALTH**

**AND**

**CHIEF PUBLIC**

## **Health Officer**

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

S. DRAPKIN, Esq., M.B.E., T.D., B.A. (*Chairman*)

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T. A. SKELLON, Esq. (to Oct., 1972)

W. R. SUCKLING, Esq. (to Aug., 1972)

Mrs. P. R. TAYLOR

Mrs. A. M. WALLER

Mrs. E. M. WILSON

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**JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES**  
**HALSTEAD URBAN & RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS**

MOUNT HILL, HALSTEAD, ESSEX

*Telephone:* Halstead 2473

*Medical Officer of Health*  
**DR. JOHN HARKNESS**  
M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.  
*Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Urban District Council*  
*and*  
*Medical Officer, Essex County Council*

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## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

*Public Health Officer*  
**HAROLD NIELD**  
B.E.M., F.A.P.H.I., F.I.P.H.E.  
*Incorporated Public Health Engineer*  
*Also Public Health Officer, Halstead Urban District Council*

*Deputy Public Health Officer* **BRIAN A. J. TURNER**  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

*District Public Health Inspectors* **JOHN R. TANSWELL**  
M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.  
(to 23.8.72)  
**DERRICK AMBROSE**  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
(to 17.3.72)  
**JOHN P. ROOD**  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
(from 16.5.72)  
**STEPHEN R. CRAWFORD**  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
(from 20.11.72)

*Technical Assistant* **SYDNEY B. SAWARD**  
M.R.I.P.H.H.

*Chief Clerk* **MICHAEL A. FAULDER**

*Clerical Assistant* **Mrs. JEAN G. GAYWOOD**

*General Clerical Assistant* **Mrs. SHEELAGH M. DIXON**  
(from 24.4.72)

*Clerk Typist* **Miss JANE E. COOK**

*Part-time Rodent Operators* **FRANK ANDREWS**  
**DAVID STEDMAN**

*Also Part-time Rodent Operators*  
Halstead Urban District Council  
Braintree Urban District Council  
Braintree Rural District Council and  
Witham Urban District Council

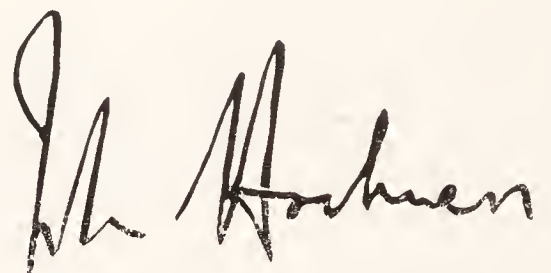
TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for 1972.

The Report is in the form specified by the Department of Health and Social Services, and consequently largely consists of tables and other data. There were few cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. Again, the main causes of death were ischaemic heart disease, malignant disease and cerebrovascular disease.

1972 was a year of preparation for reorganisation. Proposals and legislation were discussed for the reorganisation of local government and the Health Services. Such proposals are bound to bring change, and it is essential that such changes should preserve the best of the existing services and strive to improve the less efficient services.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Ashman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'J. H.' and the last name 'Ashman' clearly distinguishable.

*Medical Officer of Health.*



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report, the 26th, on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1972 under the subject headings of:

1. Food Inspection and Food Hygiene.
2. Air Pollution Control.
3. Offices, Shops, etc. – Health, Safety and Welfare Working Conditions.
4. Housing – Repair, Improvement and Demolition, Improvement Areas and Grants, Slum Clearance, Caravans and Camping.
5. Noise Control.
6. Pests Control.
7. Waste Matters – Sewerage, Drainage, Refuse Collection and Disposal.
8. Water Supplies.
9. Miscellaneous.

As in previous years it is primarily a statistical record of your Public Health Inspectors' work to maintain and improve environmental health standards. We are concerned to secure compliance by the public with law designed to protect the health of the community, and such compliance is secured by advice, persuasion and education, rather than by enforcement by process of law, which is the ultimate remedy.

1972 was a year of tremendous activity in preparation for local government reorganisation in 1974 and efforts have been directed to ensuring that there will be strong and comprehensive environmental health departments. It is vitally important that the new Braintree District Council should regard environmental health as a single concept with one co-ordinated department charged with the oversight of all those aspects of the environment which are of significance to health in its widest and most positive sense.

Once again I am glad to be able to record how the preventive and protective day to day environmental health work of the Department has been encouraged by the continued interest, support and confidence of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and Council. I am grateful, too, for the willing, loyal and effective assistance of my staff, and also to colleagues in other Council Departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. A. ...', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

*Health Officer*

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	76,631
Population (Registrar General's estimate) .. .. .	19,700
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1972) according to the Rate Books .. .. .	7,851
Rateable Value .. .. .	£538,275
Sum represented by a 1p rate .. .. .	£5,114

## Live Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	287	141	146
Illegitimate .. .. .	23	12	11
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. .. .	..	..	15·7
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 1·11) .. .. .	..	..	17·4
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) .. .. .	..	..	14·8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. .. .	..	..	7·0

## Still Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	4	3	1
Illegitimate .. .. .	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .	..	..	13·0
Total births (live and still) .. .. .	..	..	314

## Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year .. .. .	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	10·0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births .. .. .	10·0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births .. .. .	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	—
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	—
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week) per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	13·0
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .. .. .	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	—

## Deaths:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths .. .. .	257	128	129
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. .. .	..	..	13·0
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0·84) .. .. .	..	..	10·9
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) .. .. .	..	..	12·1

# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1972

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory) .. .. .	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, larynx .. .. .	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus .. .. .	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine .. .. .	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	10	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	0	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	10	2
Benign and unspecified neoplasms .. .. .	0	1
Diabetes mellitus .. .. .	0	6
Meningitis .. .. .	1	0
Other diseases of nervous system .. .. .	2	1
Chronic rheumatic heart diseases .. .. .	0	4
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease .. .. .	44	28
Other heart disease .. .. .	5	5
Cerebrovascular disease .. .. .	13	30
Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	4	1
Influenza .. .. .	0	2
Pneumonia .. .. .	11	11
Bronchitis and emphysema .. .. .	6	4
Asthma .. .. .	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	0	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	4	1
Appendicitis .. .. .	0	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia .. .. .	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system .. .. .	0	1
Cirrhosis of liver .. .. .	2	0
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	0
Other diseases, genito-urinary system .. .. .	1	0
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .. .. .	0	1
Congenital malformation .. .. .	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions .. .. .	0	3
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	3	0
All other accidents .. .. .	1	2
All other external causes .. .. .	0	1
Totals ..	128	129

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0	0
Dysentery .. .. .	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .. .. .	0	0	0
Erysipelas .. .. .	0	0	0
Food Poisoning .. .. .	1	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis .. .. .	2	0	0
Measles .. .. .	18	0	0
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	1	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Pneumonia .. .. .	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	3	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) .. .. .	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary) .. .. .	1	1	0
Whooping Cough .. .. .	3	0	0
Totals ..	26	1	0

Tuberculosis—New Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year .. .. .	0	0	0	0
1 and under 5 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
5 and under 10 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
10 and under 15 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
15 and under 20 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
20 and under 25 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
25 and under 35 years .. .. .	0	0	0	1
35 and under 45 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
45 and under 55 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
55 and under 65 years .. .. .	0	0	0	0
65 years and upwards .. .. .	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	0	0	0	1

Transfers from other Districts: 1

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 1



# 1. FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' duties. During the last 20 years with the aid of increasingly more stringent legislation, it has been possible to ensure the improvement of most food premises up to a reasonable standard. It is hoped that in the future more attention can be given to ensuring that food handlers are aware of their responsibilities and carry out their work hygienically, not because the law says they must, but because it is second nature to do so, and they know why they are doing so. In this connection the general public can be of great assistance by reporting unhygienic practices to the management, by refusing to be served by the assistant who is constantly licking his fingers, touching his nose or brushing his hair, and most important of all by also referring such instances to the Public Health Inspector.

Much has been said and done in the field of date stamping of food stocks, but although the trade is beginning to accept the principle, the shop keeper has been slow to follow suit. It is essential for the ultimate retailer to ensure that his stocks of food are properly rotated and that the risk of food poisoning, one of the diseases of man which has not decreased in incidence in recent years, can be prevented. Again success in this field of food supply control calls for an awareness of the basic facts of hygiene which can only be achieved by education, and by the housewife refusing to accept lower standards, and not being afraid to complain.

There is a need for legislation to enforce immediate closure of food premises where there is gross neglect of basic standards of food hygiene.

## (a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Having wash hand basin with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses .. .. .	1	2	1	1	1
Bread and Confectioners .. ..	2	2	2	2	2
Bread Distribution Depots .. ..	1	0	1	1	1
Dairies and Milk Distributors ..	7	5	5	7	4
Egg Packing and Liquid Egg Preparation Premises .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers .. ..	3	3	3	3	3
Game Dealers' Premises .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0
General Provisions Shops .. ..	50	23	39	39	50
Greengrocers .. .. .	2	2	1	1	1
Ice Cream Premises (Registered) ..	53	9	41	—	—
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	10	1	9	10	10
Meat Shops .. .. .	12	7	11	12	12
Poultry Processing Premises .. ..	3	1	—	—	3
Public Houses and Inns .. .. .	56	24	27	56	56
Restaurants and Cafes .. .. .	14	3	14	14	14
School Kitchens .. .. .	18	7	14	18	18
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	1	167	1	1	1
Social Clubs .. .. .	6	2	6	6	6
Street Vendors .. .. .	—	0	—	—	—
Sweet Confectioners .. .. .	4	1	4	4	4
Works Canteens .. .. .	3	0	3	3	3
Miscellaneous .. .. .	6	6	3	6	5
Totals ..	252	265	185	184	194

Food premises fully surveyed ..	..	..	..	..	4
Food poisoning investigations	..	..	..	..	1
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	7
Food premises improved	..	..	..	..	5
Food vehicles improved	..	..	..	..	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

The co-operation of food traders in improving the hygienic handling and storage of food was appreciated, but further improvements are desirable and progress is very dependent upon public opinion.

#### (b) Food Premises Improvements

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	Totals
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
General Provisions														
Shops .. ..	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Greengrocers ..	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Public Houses and Inns .. ..	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Social Clubs ..	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Totals .. ..	2	3	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15

#### (c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by a local butcher during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed time on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, officially stamped before leaving the slaughterhouse. In addition to being responsible for meat inspection in slaughterhouses Public Health Inspectors also ensured that proper standards of hygiene were maintained and that animals were handled humanely.

No specimens were submitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 18p per bovine animal, 5p per calf or pig, and 4p per sheep, lamb or goat were made during the year.



Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouse are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed .. .. .	296	0	4	410	612	0
Number Inspected .. .. .	296	0	4	410	612	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	26	0	0	0	15	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. .. .	8.7	0	0	0	2.4	0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	2	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0.32	0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration.. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally con- demned .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 3

(d) Poultry Inspection at Poultry Processing Premises

Three poultry processing premises were in operation during the year, and had a total weekly throughput of approximately 7,500 broilers. Regular routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors for their fitness for human consumption was not practicable, but occasional examinations were made as possible.

It should be appreciated, however, that many farms and smallholdings processed and retailed poultry to some extent and especially during the Christmas period, and in the main processing at these premises was carried out unknown to your Public Health Inspectors and often under somewhat unhygienic conditions.

(e) Milk and Dairies

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licences were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Three samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory, but it was not possible for routine sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli or brucella abortus to be carried out by your Public Health Inspectors. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified during the year.

Five inspections were made during the year of the seven registered dairy premises.

**(f) Liquid Egg Processing Premises**

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

**(g) Ice Cream**

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 53 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	6	Satisfactory	8
II	2		

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Satisfactory	1

**(h) General**

Twelve complaints were received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Bottled Milk (5) Bottled Milk (4) Bread Crisps Tinned Rhubarb	Dirty Bottles Foreign Objects Mould Insect Faulty Can

It is pleasing to note a further increase in the number of complaints. Detailed investigations were made and appropriate informal action was taken. Bearing in mind the quantities of food sold during the year, this still reflects a reticence on the part of the public to make official complaints.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.

In the past few years there has been a considerable change in the eating habits of the community. Many more people own deep freezers and buy their food in bulk, but more significantly many people eat out, either regularly or on an 'occasion', and to cater for this change many public houses are now providing dining rooms. Unfortunately, although the decor is well planned, the kitchen often is not. Your Public Health Inspectors, however, scrutinise plans for these alterations and are often able to ensure that not only are minimum standards achieved, but by personal approach and persuasion are able to ensure that food is prepared and served in the most hygienic circumstances.



**(i) Unsound Food**

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	231 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	30 lbs.
Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	45 lbs.
Frozen Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	51 lbs.
Total ..							<u>357 lbs.</u>

This condemned food was stained and disposed of either by burial in deep refuse pits or by sterilisation at licensed Waste Food Boiling Premises.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

**(j) Imported Food Regulations**

The following quantities of Imported Foods were examined at a warehouse in the district, such foods having been released from the port of entry in unopened containers.

Port of Arrival	Quantity	Nature of Food
Manchester	177 bags	Split Peas

## **2. AIR POLLUTION CONTROL**

Air pollution, an environmental health condition of major importance, was not a matter subject to serious local complaint, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to this duty.

Some hold the view that the work of Public Health Inspectors in the field of air pollution control, may be reduced in future years due to the likely completion of domestic smoke control, probably within the next decade, and the fact that control of industrial dark smoke within the existing legislation has to a large extent been achieved. This fails to recognise the need for progressive improvement in standards. On this basis, an increasing workload is envisaged involving the continued reappraisal of improving technology in relation to the interpretation of "practicable" as defined in the legislation. Further, the restructuring of local government into larger district councils should provide an opportunity for the environmental health department to contain within their ranks more specialised officers in this field, and every effort should be made to develop a better understanding and closer co-operation between the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate and the environmental health departments.

### **(a) New Furnace and Chimney Installations**

(1) Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies . .	2
(2) Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act . . . . .	2

Legislation requiring the prior approval of the installation of furnaces, and regulating the height of chimneys, is an effective method of controlling atmospheric pollution from new industrial or business premises, and also ensures that ground level pollution is kept to a minimum from these sources. It is well known, however, that domestic smoke is the prime culprit, being discharged at low level with both low temperature and low velocity, so ensuring that most of it reaches ground level quickly, thus polluting air at breathing level with adverse well known effects.

### **(b) Air Pollution Nuisances**

(1) Investigations . . . . .	38
(2) Confirmed . . . . .	3
(3) Abated . . . . .	1

An increase in the number of investigations of air pollution nuisances continues to reflect the public awareness of environmental pollution, particularly from the burning of waste in such quantities as constitutes a real problem and nuisance. The co-operation of the public in bringing these offences to your Public Health Inspectors is appreciated. A free service for the collection of waste is in operation and should be more widely used.

The 'burning off' of straw in the fields after harvest has increased greatly in the last few years but it is hoped that in view of the reaction of the public to the palls of smoke and drift of sooty particles that farmers will realize the inconvenience caused and comply with advice given nationally on the matter.

No smoke control areas were declared by the Council or confirmed by the Minister during the year.

### 3. OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

The control of the health and welfare aspects of working conditions by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., has continued to receive increasing attention in recent years and the following statistical details show continued improvement.

The Report of a Government Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Robens published this year proposes various reforms, including the drafting of a single new Act covering virtually the whole of Britain's 24 million working population. The new Act should include provisions for the safety of members of the public whilst in premises covered by the Act, as well as safety of employees which is of particular importance in places such as departmental stores where customers and staff are so inextricably mixed.

#### (a) Factories

##### (1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	2	3	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	43	45	1	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .. ..	—	0	0	0
Totals .. ..	45	48	1	0

##### (2) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ..	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Totals .. ..	2	0	0	0	0



### (3) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			Inspections
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel —Making, etc.	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Carbon Jig Assembly	5						

#### (b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

During the year only 5 new premises were registered, and received a general inspection.

No serious contraventions were observed. Two informal notices were served in respect of various contraventions found during routine inspections, and 5 informal notices were complied with.

One non-fatal accident involving crates being unloaded falling on to a brewery warehouse worker was reported.

Investigation of accidents in the past, aimed at finding the causes and suggesting preventive measures has often brought to light a lack of knowledge of elementary first aid in both management and employees. It is felt that an appropriate amount of time should be spent by all persons responsible for first aid to be adequately and properly taught, at least the elementary principles of the subject.

No applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

- (1) Premises registered and inspections.
- (2) Contraventions.
- (3) Improvements following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.



TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices .. .. .	3	16	8	25	2	37	3	45
Retail Shops .. .. .	1	43	22	78	3	19	5	65
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .. .. .	0	5	5	13	0	63	0	0
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens .. .. .	1	7	4	16	1	2	0	13
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	0	3	2	5	0	13	0	0
Totals ..	5	74	41	137	6	134	8	123



(c) Miscellaneous

Premises					No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment	..	..	..		50	0
Schools	..	..	..	..	22	10

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops)	..	..	..	..	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation	..	..	..	..	0

## 4. HOUSING

Housing in its many aspects again had priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The encouragement of improved housing standards through financial grants and loans, the prevention of deterioration in the condition of older houses through routine inspection and enforcement action concerning disrepair, and the reconstruction or demolition of condemned houses through slum clearance proposals, all helped in making a major contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the District's social as well as environmental health conditions.

It is sometimes difficult to decide whether clearance or improvement is the appropriate way of dealing with an area of unfit houses and careful judgment is needed. Wherever it is feasible houses should be preserved but there are areas where housing is so intermixed with industry or where space limitations physically prevent improvement which can only be dealt with by clearance. There is a need for environmental matters to be included in the unfitness standard. A date should also be fixed for the future raising of the unfitness standard so as to overcome the present situation in that houses lacking amenities which are now accepted as essential for modern living have to be regarded, in a legal sense, as being fit.

Public Health Inspectors' housing duties, however, do present many problems and being charged with many onerous tasks, often must bear the odium for actions which they are carrying out on instructions from central government. No problem causes more heartache and gives a worse public image than slum clearance.

### (a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	..	..	75
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	..	..	105
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	..	..	348
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	..	..	2
(5)	Inspections regarding Qualification Certificates	..	..	45
(6)	Inspections of caravan sites	..	..	15
(7)	Inspections of individual caravans	..	..	94
(8)	Miscellaneous housing inspections	..	..	607
(9)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	..		0

### (b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	20
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0

### (c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses officially reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	..	15
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation	..	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	..	0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	..	2
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1972)		
	(i) to make fit for human habitation	..	4
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	..	18
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	..	1
	(b) Closing Orders determined	..	1
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1972)		84
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	..	12
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	..	10
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1972)		84

### (d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:—

- (1) the approved proposals,
- (2) the year-by-year progress made,



- (3) the position at 31st December, 1972,
- (4) unfit houses —occupied and vacant showing Statutory Unfitness Orders thereon,
- (5) length of occupation of houses subject to Statutory Unfitness Orders.

(1)

Year	Total houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956	587 (including 198 from previous proposals)
1966	598 (including 313 from previous proposals)
1971	350 (including 208 from previous proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Council House Rehousings
1956	40	20	0	51	7	25	12
1957	52	6	0	38	15	27	8
1958	48	3	17	23	8	36	18
1959	55	5	3	32	10	25	19
1960	60	8	26	29	12	22	21
1961	43	6	11	33	16	17	11
1962	65	0	13	27	15	29	17
1963	62	1	22	45	14	37	9
1964	18	5	6	17	10	33	12
1965	83	0	13	31	29	28	10
1966	15	4	11	11	15	12	15
1967	39	1	6	26	18	20	4
1968	46	2	7	22	23	40	6
1969	0	0	3	7	16	8	7
1970	0	0	0	0	36	14	6
1971	0	0	0	0	7	11	1
1972	15	0	1	12	13	17	2
Totals	641	61	139	404	264	401	178

(3)

Unfit Houses Reported to Council and made subject to				Unfit Houses Awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	
22	84	84	4	126

(4)

Parish	Occupied Houses subject to				Vacant Houses subject to				Total Houses	
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Occupied	Vacant
Alphamstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Ashen	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Belchamp Otten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Walter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdbrook	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	2
Borley	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2
Bulmer	0	4	0	0	2	3	0	0	4	5
Bures Hamlet	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	4
Castle Hedingham	0	3	5	0	2	8	6	0	8	16
Colne Engaine	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Earls Colne	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Foxearth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gestingthorpe	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	2	5
Gosfield	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Great Henny	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	2
Great Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Yeldham	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Greenstead Green & Halstead Rural	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Helions Bumpstead	1	1	4	0	0	1	6	0	6	7
Lamarsh	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Little Yeldham	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	1
Middleton	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Ovington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pebmarsh	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	3	5
Pentlow	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ridgewell	0	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	4
Sible Hedingham	0	7	9	0	1	6	2	0	16	9
Stambourne	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	3
Steeple Bumpstead	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	2
Sturmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	1	4	0	0	4	3	0	0	5	7
Toppesfield	0	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	8	1
Twinstead	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
White Colne	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	2
Wickham St. Paul	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	3
Totals	5	47	47	1	17	37	37	1	100	92
Total Houses Owner-occupied	5	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	55	0

(5) Houses subject to Statutory Unfitness Orders have continued to be occupied as detailed in the following table. The securing of early rehousing of families living in unfit dwellings, and the reconditioning or demolition of these houses, is a problem which should be overcome with the very minimum further delay.

Years of Continued Occupation	Number of houses subject to		
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders
1	0	1	3
3	0	1	2
4	0	3	3
5	0	4	2
6	1	4	5
7	0	7	8
8	0	2	3
9	0	10	5
10	0	2	0
11	0	4	6
12	0	6	5
13	1	0	0
14	0	3	0
15	0	0	1
16	1	0	3
17	1	0	0
24	1	0	0
41	0	0	1
Totals	5	47	47

**(e) Housing Improvements**

The Council have not delared any areas to be “General Improvement Areas”. No sizeable areas appropriate for larger scale environmental improvement as general improvement areas have been considered or are reasonably obviously apparent.

General improvement areas are predominantly residential areas within the District, in which the living conditions in the area ought to be improved by the improvement of the amenities of the area or of the sound dwellings therein, or both, and by clearing away any dwellings that are beyond repair. Government grants are available for modernising such areas with such projects as creating play spaces and walkways, providing off the street car parking for residents and stopping through traffic from using the area as a short cut, laying out grassy spaces with flowerbeds and seats, planting trees and installing new street lighting, and private householders in the area are encouraged to take advantage of improvement grants towards the cost of modernising their own homes.

There are no upper or lower limits to size of general improvement areas but the conception of environmental improvement implies that normally something a good deal more than a group of a dozen or a score of houses will be involved. Boundaries suggested by physical features, land uses or the character of areas will often determine the matter.

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.. .. .	157
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the “Twelve Points Standard” ..	38
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices ..	0
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices ..	0
(5)	Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders ..	13
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act .. .. .	17

**(f) Housing Improvement Grants**

(1)	Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants .. ..	46
(2)	Discretionary Improvement Grants approved .. ..	44
(3)	Schemes completed .. ..	27



Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949	1	0	—	—	—
1950	9	0	—	—	—
1951	1	0	—	—	—
1952	0	0	—	—	—
1953	7	2	£400·00	1	£200·00
1954	19	18	£4,093·50	4	£740·00
1955	49	48	£11,113·00	20	£5,726·50
1956	49	48	£13,322·00	38	£7,746·00
1957	46	46	£12,414·00	40	£10,868·00
1958	36	34	£9,560·00	45	£12,174·00
1959	50	50	£13,716·00	32	£8,661·00
1960	24	23	£7,503·00	43	£12,233·00
1961	42	42	£13,567·00	24	£8,237·00
1962	31	30	£9,677·00	33	£10,534·00
1963	26	25	£8,085·00	19	£6,033·00
1964	22	22	£6,194·00	14	£4,527·00
1965	15	15	£4,326·00	19	£5,865·00
1966	11	11	£4,208·00	20	£5,913·00
1967	14	14	£5,015·00	9	£3,009·00
1968	8	8	£2,655·00	15	£5,562·00
1969	12	11	£5,272·00	12	£4,053·00
1970	26	24	£18,330·00	11	£5,707·00
1971	31	31	£27,746·00	15	£10,184·00
1972	46	44	£38,250·00	27	£22,290·00
Totals	575	546	£215,446·50	441	£150,262·50

Year	Houses Occupied by			Totals
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1949 to 1953	1	1	0	2
1954	9	6	3	18
1955	16	24	8	48
1956	21	11	16	48
1957	27	11	8	46
1958	20	6	8	34
1959	23	12	15	50
1960	6	5	12	23
1961	20	8	14	42
1962	12	6	12	30
1963	7	8	10	25
1964	5	11	6	22
1965	5	5	5	15
1966	2	1	8	11
1967	0	5	9	14
1968	2	3	3	8
1969	1	2	8	11
1970	2	8	14	24
1971	6	10	15	31
1972	2	18	24	44
Totals	187	161	198	546



(4) Applications for Standard Improvement Grants	..	..	..	15
(5) Standard Improvement Grants approved	..	..	..	15
(6) Schemes completed	..	..	..	6

Details regarding Standard Improvement Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Grant Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	15	15	£1,855	0	—	—
1960	43	43	£5,920	14	£1,725	£1,563·70
1961	25	25	£3,570	24	£2,990	£2,679·68
1962	7	7	£1,045	17	£2,480	£2,378·55
1963	16	14	£2,020	14	£2,060	£1,875·47
1964	11	11	£1,500	12	£1,750	£1,577·01
1965	15	15	£2,346	11	£1,495	£1,480·45
1966	5	5	£900	13	£2,241	£2,082·00
1967	14	14	£2,329	6	£926	£895·75
1968	14	14	£2,726	11	£1,935	£1,935·00
1969	7	7	£1,255	14	£2,421	£2,386·30
1970	8	8	£1,895	7	£1,580	£1,462·52
1971	7	7	£1,699	5	£1,170	£1,122·50
1972	15	15	£2,708	6	£1,242	£1,242·00
Totals	202	200	£31,768	154	£24,015	£22,680·93

Year	Houses Occupied by			Totals
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1959	0	4	11	15
1960	18	5	20	43
1961	8	3	14	25
1962	2	0	5	7
1963	1	6	7	14
1964	4	0	7	11
1965	1	3	11	15
1966	1	0	4	5
1967	0	5	9	14
1968	0	5	9	14
1969	0	1	6	7
1970	2	1	5	8
1971	0	2	5	7
1972	0	9	6	15
Totals	37	44	119	200

(g) Loans for Repairing or Improving Houses

(7) Applications for Repair/Improvement Loans	..	..	..	0
(8) Repair/Improvement Loans Approved	..	..	..	0

Details regarding Repair/Improvement Loans are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications		
	Received	Approved	Amount of Loan
1956	4	4	£1,450
1957	3	3	£1,795
1958	—	—	—
1959	1	1	£1,000
1960	3	3	£1,750
1961	4	4	£4,190
1962	4	4	£3,600
1963	—	—	—
1964	—	—	—
1965	—	—	—
1966	4	4	£7,900
1967	1	1	£1,930
1968	3	1	£600
1969	2	1	£3,000
1970	2	2	£1,000
1971	0	0	—
1972	0	0	—
Totals	31	28	£28,215

Parish distribution of Discretionary Improvement Grants, Standard Improvement Grants and Financial Loans for repairing or improving houses, is given in the following table:—

Parish	Discretionary Improvement Grants	Standard Improve- ment Grants	Repair/ Improvement Loans	Totals
Alphamstone .. ..	2	3	0	5
Ashen .. ..	12	5	0	17
Belchamp Otten ..	7	4	1	12
Belchamp St. Paul ..	18	6	0	24
Belchamp Walter ..	11	4	0	15
Birdbrook .. ..	11	4	0	15
Borley .. ..	2	4	0	6
Bulmer .. ..	10	13	0	23
Bures Hamlet .. ..	6	13	0	19
Castle Hedingham ..	22	5	0	27
Colne Engaine .. ..	56	12	13	81
Earls Colne .. ..	61	18	0	79
Foxearth .. ..	10	7	1	18
Gestingthorpe .. ..	12	3	1	16
Gosfield .. ..	30	6	0	36
Great Henny .. ..	5	0	2	7
Great Maplestead ..	15	0	1	16
Great Yeldham .. ..	19	6	1	26
Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural ..	53	17	0	70
Helions Bumpstead ..	16	2	0	18
Lamarsh .. ..	3	2	0	5
Liston .. ..	0	0	0	0
Little Henny .. ..	3	0	0	3
Little Maplestead ..	5	4	0	9
Little Yeldham .. ..	6	1	0	7
Middleton .. ..	5	2	0	7
Ovington .. ..	3	4	0	7
Pebmarsh .. ..	14	2	0	16
Pentlow .. ..	4	0	0	4
Ridgewell .. ..	9	6	1	16
Sible Hedingham ..	48	17	5	70
Stambourne .. ..	7	1	0	8
Steeple Bumpstead ..	18	10	0	28
Sturmer .. ..	7	6	0	13
Tilbury-juxta-Clare ..	5	0	0	5
Toppesfield .. ..	10	7	1	18
Twinstead .. ..	3	0	1	4
White Colne .. ..	12	2	0	14
Wickham St. Paul ..	6	4	0	10
Totals .. ..	546	200	28	774

#### (h) Rent of Dwellings—Qualification Certificates

The increasing of rents subject to certain repairs and improvements being carried out is a matter for liaison between the Public Health Department and the Rents Officer. The issue of Qualification Certificates is work which requires a great deal of care and judgment on the part of Public Health Inspectors to provide for reasonable consistency and to see that property is in a satisfactory condition before certificates are granted.

(1) Applications for Qualification Certificates (where standard amenities lacking) .. .. .	5
(2) Certificates of Provisional Approval issued .. .. .	9
(3) Qualification Certificates issued (where standard amenities lacking) ..	13
(4) Application for Qualification Certificates (where standard amenities already provided) .. .. .	6
(5) Qualification Certificates issued (where standard amenities already provided) .. .. .	16

#### (i) Housing Overcrowding

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1971 .. .. .	1
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1972 .. .. .	0
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1972 .. .. .	0
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December 1972 .. .. .	1
(5) Informal Notices served regarding abatement of overcrowding ..	0

#### (j) Caravan Sites

At the end of the year one caravan site licence for 58 caravans had been granted and there were 26 individual licensed caravan sites in the District. Most were used as permanent residences.

No Local Authority caravan sites have been established in the District under the provisions of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, although a number of itinerant caravan dwellers have from time to time collected in groups in various parts of the District and have been the subject of complaint from local residents.

One unauthorised private caravan site has been the subject of repeated strong local complaint. Legal proceedings which the Council, in December 1969, resolved to take were heard in the local Magistrates Court in January 1972 when the owner was allowed 1 year in which to comply with site licence conditions.

On reappearance in Court in December the owner was fined £10 with £5 costs and cautioned that on reappearance for failure to comply with site licence conditions the existing site licences would be withdrawn.

#### (k) Miscellaneous Housing Matters

During the year 108 houses were built by private enterprise. Eleven two-bedroom bungalows and 16 two-bedroom flats were built by the Council. Sixteen existing Council houses were variously improved to present-day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, internal water closets, hot water supplies, improved drainage systems, etc.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year were (information supplied by the Council's Housing Manager):—

Pre-war. Houses .. .. .	417
Post-war. Houses and Bungalows .. .. .	902
Flats and Flatlets .. .. .	157
(1 block of 20, 1 block of 16, 1 block of 17, 1 block of 12, 1 block of 8, 19 blocks of 4, 4 blocks of 2)	

Houses sold by Council to tenants:—

(a) During 1972 .. .. .	31
(b) Total .. .. .	53
(19 pre-war and 34 post-war)	

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.



## 5. NOISE CONTROL

There is an increasing public awareness that noise, which has been described as the wrong sound in the wrong place at the wrong time, is another form of environmental pollution. Noise levels are becoming intolerable, and unnecessary noise is a menace to modern living. Considerable efforts are being directed towards the control of this social nuisance, but the abatement of noise is frequently a complicated science necessitating the taking of many detailed measurements and is especially difficult when so many factors must be considered. What is acceptable to one person or group is unpleasant to others. Available evidence suggests that noise is considered much more annoying when intruding into the house than when encountered outdoors or at work.

Continuing public reaction to noise, whether at work, in the highway or intruding into the house and garden, is a sign that the community is no longer prepared to accept the increasing clamour inflicted upon the environment.

Investigations in the District have included motor vehicle repairs in private houses, pop-groups practising, a ready-mix concrete works, factory machinery, etc.

Pressure of other work has not permitted as much time to be devoted to this important aspect of environment pollution control as the subject warrants.

Although the Council may take formal action under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act 1960 and Part III of the Public Health Act 1936 the cumbersome and lengthy procedure is often difficult to enforce.

### Noise Nuisances

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

## **6. PESTS CONTROL**

Pest control, a routine environmental health duty which may easily be overlooked, although it has been given more prominence nationally recently, and the very wide variety of pests which it is necessary for your Public Health Inspectors to identify, advise upon regarding disinfestation measures, and supply appropriate rodenticides, pesticides and insecticides, etc., are detailed.

The Council's free disinfestation services have resulted in early notification of infestations and the consequent early disinfestation work has prevented the previous more serious and widespread infestations.

### **(a) Insect Pests**

The District continued to be comparatively free from household insect pest infestations. No premises were found with bed bug infestation. A total of 48 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests and 35 premises were disinfested. Supplies of pesticides, insecticides, etc., were also issued free to private householders. Pests dealt with included ants, fleas, flies, red spider mites, wasps, etc. One insect which, although not a public health hazard, causes a lot of consternation is the Clover Mite or Gooseberry Mite (*Bryobia praltiosa*) which is a minute red insect which feeds on plants, grasses and clover. It has a habit of entering houses to hibernate and usually emerges late April to early May when it is seen on windows and window cills in very large numbers. Although the presence of the mites is disturbing to the housewife they are innocuous causing harm neither to the person nor material. Treatment with a household aerosol is usually quite sufficient internally and externally removal of grass and plants up to 18 inches from the house together with appropriate spraying. No major insect pest infestations occurred at the Council's refuse dumps, but they were dusted with insecticidal powder as a routine measure. Serious nuisance caused by fly breeding on the refuse tip at Bulmer operated by Sudbury Borough Council was reported, and following investigation and pressure remedial action was taken by that Council. The Council operates a free wasp nest destruction service for domestic premises at the discretion of the Public Health Officer.

### **(b) Rodent Control**

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials. A free rat and mouse disinfestation service, at the discretion of the Public Health Officer, operated for occupiers of domestic premises. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dumps, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operators during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District ..	8,019	453
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification .. .. .	252	17
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats .. .. .	192	13
	(ii) Mice .. .. .	60	4
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification .. .. .	699	37
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats .. .. .	5	3
	(ii) Mice .. .. .	3	2
Sewers			
4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.		



The Council's rodent control service treated 259 infestations, 185 rat and 74 mice at non-agricultural premises, and 29 rat infestations at Council premises, sewerage works, refuse dumps, etc.

One informal notice was served in respect of rat infestations but 6 non-agricultural premises were rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

Three "Block Control" schemes in respect of 15 houses were carried out.

There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats in the District during the year.

### (c) Miscellaneous Pests

One premise was disinfested in respect of moles by the Council's pest control service, and advice was given in response to enquiries regarding infestations of bats, squirrels, pigeons, etc.

## 7. WASTE MATTERS

### (a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor.

Comprehensive sewerage and sewage disposal schemes served 17 parishes (Belchamp St. Paul, Birdbrook (Baythorn End), Bures Hamlet, Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural, Helions Bumpstead, Pebmarsh, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead, Sturmer and Toppesfield). In addition seven small public sewers and sewage disposal works for Council houses and nearby private properties served parts of the parishes of Bulmer, Gestingthorpe, Great Maplestead, Little Yeldham, Pentlow, Sible Hedingham and Wickham St. Paul.

Properties connected to the new public sewers constructed by the Council during the post-war years, expressed as a percentage of properties capable of connection, together with the dates the schemes were completed:—

Belchamp St. Paul	..	..	..	(June, 1969)	..	..	..	74%
Birdbrook (Baythorn End)	..	..	..	(May, 1962)	..	..	..	100%
Castle Hedingham	..	..	..	(June, 1961)	..	..	..	99%
Colne Engaine	..	..	..	(July, 1964)	..	..	..	97%
Foxearth	..	..	..	(January, 1967)	..	..	..	96%
Gosfield	..	..	..	(March, 1961)	..	..	..	99%
Great Yeldham	..	..	..	(June, 1961)	..	..	..	90%
Greenstead Green & Halstead Rural	..	..	..	(August, 1962)	..	..	..	98%
Helions Bumpstead	..	..	..	(February, 1972)	..	..	..	72%
Pebmarsh	..	..	..	(April, 1963)	..	..	..	81%
Ridgewell	..	..	..	(March, 1965)	..	..	..	89%
Sible Hedingham	..	..	..	(June, 1961)	..	..	..	97%
Sible Hedingham (Wethersfield Road)	..	..	..	(December, 1969)	..	..	..	73%
Steeple Bumpstead	..	..	..	(January, 1972)	..	..	..	23%
Sturmer	..	..	..	(April, 1972)	..	..	..	51%
Toppesfield	..	..	..	(March, 1963)	..	..	..	92%

The scheme for public sewerage and sewage disposal for Helions Bumpstead, Steeple Bumpstead and Sturmer and improvements and extensions to the public sewerage and sewage disposal works serving Castle Hedingham, Great Yeldham, Pentlow and Sible Hedingham were completed during the year. The scheme for improvements and extensions at Earls Colne and White Colne was anticipated to be completed early in 1973 and the final stage of improvements to the public sewerage works at Sible Hedingham is expected to commence during 1973.

Schemes of public sewerage and sewage disposal for Birdbrook (The Street), Belchamp Walter, Stambourne, Tilbury-juxta-Claire and Wickham St. Paul were being prepared by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor and Consulting Engineers.

Work on the provision of a Central Sludge Drying and Disposal Plant commenced during the year.

Thirty-one inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

Surveys of villages under consideration for sewerage schemes were carried out by Public Health Inspectors to provide evidence as to need on public health grounds for such schemes in support of the Council's application for approval and grant aid from the County Council and the Ministry, and also to provide information to the Council's Consulting Engineers.

### (b) Drainage

Drainage was part of the duties of Public Health Inspectors. Due to the comparatively recent and increasing availability of mains water supply and public sewerage facilities in parts of the District, with the consequent desire for modern sanitary fittings in houses and most other premises, these duties again had to take some priority in the Department's work.

There was no scheme operated by the Council for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), and householders made their own arrangements with private contractors.

#### (i) Drainage Duties

(1) Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	..	..	..	447
(2) Drainage investigations and advisory visits	..	..	..	117
(3) Drainage inspections	..	..	..	772
(4) Inspection of ditches, etc.	..	..	..	55
(5) Drainage tests	..	..	..	517
(6) Informal Notices served	..	..	..	18
(7) Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	0
(8) Statutory Notices complied with	..	..	..	0

#### (ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, the following improvements were effected:—

(1) Premises drained to sewers..	..	..	..	..	..	91
(2) Premises drained to septic tanks	..	..	..	..	..	35
(3) Drains reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	12
(4) Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	8
(5) Ditches cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	1

### (c) Sanitary Fittings and Conveniences

There is a need in the District for the conversion of earth closets into water closets and for the provision of baths to dwellings. In the more urbanised parts of the District there is a need for the provision of public conveniences, and it is pleasing to note that Castle and Sible Hedingham have made certain conveniences available for public use and the Rural District Council have agreed to continue to give financial assistance. Representation has been made for the necessity to provide similar arrangements in other parts of the District, particularly Bures Hamlet, Earls Colne and Steeple Bumpstead.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors the following improvements were effected:—

(1) New sanitary conveniences provided	..	..	..	..	138
(2) New urinals provided	..	..	..	..	0
(3) Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	107
(4) Baths provided	..	..	..	..	107
(5) Showers provided	..	..	..	..	13
(6) Wash-hand basins provided	..	..	..	..	140
(7) Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	..	..	..	..	0



#### (d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council possessed 5 refuse collecting vehicles, which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on refuse tips at Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and at Sudbury Borough Council's tip at Bulmer. Refuse from the North of the District was disposed of at the pulverisation plant of the Haverhill U.D.C.

Special collections of bulky domestic refuse were undertaken free of charge in order to discourage the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the countryside, and private tipping facilities were provided in accordance with the Civic Amenities Act 1967 on payment of a charge of 50p per load.

The rear of premises plastic bin liner system of refuse collection was put into operation in February and has proved very successful. A total of approximately 10,340 sacks are used each week yielding an annual estimated collection of 6,200 tons of refuse.

Thirteen inspections of refuse tips and 19 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made by Public Health Inspectors. Three informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulation.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors 1 accumulation of refuse was removed and 3 dustbins provided.

There was no evidence of the depositing of poisonous wastes, toxic materials, etc., in the District during the year.

### 8. WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply of the area was satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity, although from 1st April to 30th September, 1972 it was necessary to prohibit the use of hosepipes for gardens and car washing, etc.

The water supply is derived from the Colchester and District Water Board, West Suffolk Water Board and Lee Valley Water Board, supplemented by various private mains supplies.

The Water Board supplies are chlorinated and softened, and none of the public mains supplies has a plumbo-solvent action.

The water consumption in the District from Colchester and District Water Board public piped mains supply was estimated to be 33.75 gallons per head per day by the Chief Engineer.

As routine procedure samples of the supply were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

During the year 174 premises were connected to the water mains and the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	.. .. .	59
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	.. .. .	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	.. .. .	7
(d) Premises connected to water mains following Statutory Notice	.. .. .	0
(e) Premises connected to water mains following informal action	.. .. .	5
(f) Wells improved following informal action	.. .. .	0
(g) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	.. .. .	76

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains .. ..	39	38	1
Private Water Mains .. ..	25	20	5
Public Wells, etc. .. ..	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc. .. ..	12	10	2
Totals ..	76	68	8

(h) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content: 7

### Public Swimming Baths

There were no public swimming baths in the District. Part of Gosfield Lake continued in use as a public bathing pool. During the bathing season no samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination.

The number of private swimming pools has increased considerably during recent years, and there are now approximately 25 in the District.

Typical Chemical Analyses of Public and Private Mains Water Supplies in the District, given in parts per million, are shown in the following table:

Examination For	Supply							
	Public				Private			
	Colchester and District Water Board	West Suffolk Water Board	Colchester and District Water Board (Bures Hamlet)	Lee Valley Water Company (Hempstead)	George Courtauld Farms Ltd., Colne Engaine	R. Hunt & Co. Ltd., Earls Colne	Paines Manor, Pentlow	Rippers Ltd., Sible Hedingham
Turbidity .. ..	Nil	Less than 1	Nil	Less than 1	Less than 1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH .. ..	8.4	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.5	7.7	7.2	7.4
Free Carbon Dioxide ..	Absent	25	23	35	20	9	25	22
Electric Conductivity ..	480	810	830	550	790	930	600	590
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	330	580	600	390	550	620	440	420
Chlorine present as Chloride ..	64	53	108	24	113	152	29	31
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	40	280	295	260	285	235	320	265
Hardness: Total ..	170	450	320	300	270	185	360	310
Carbonate (Temporary) ..	40	280	295	260	270	185	320	265
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	130	170	25	40	0	0	40	45
Nitrate Nitrogen ..	1.9	1.3	0.2	2.7	0.5	1.1	1.2	1.2
Nitrite Nitrogen ..	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.07	0.04	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxygen Absorbed ..	0.00	0.30	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00
Residual Chlorine ..	Absent	0.04	0.02	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals: Iron ..	0.04	0.13	0.06	Absent	0.07	0.05	Absent	Absent
Zinc ..	Absent	0.08	Absent	Absent	0.37	0.29	6.4	Absent
Copper, Lead ..	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride ..	0.4	0.45	0.95	0.5	1.4	2.3	0.25	0.25



## 9. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

### (a) Plans

Planning and Building Regulation plans examined regarding public health matters .. .. . 447

Liaison is most important between Officers dealing with Planning and Building Regulations on the one hand, and Public Health Officers dealing with Health Legislation on the other. It is desirable that plans of new development should be forwarded to the Health Department for scrutiny and certification by Public Health Officers, to ensure that where any proposals conflict with Health Legislation, the attention of developers can be drawn to the modifications necessary. This would avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Officers, especially at food premises, places of employment, offices, shops, factories, etc. Prior consultation with Public Health Officers is also desirable, especially when Planning Permissions are sought for such projects as intensive livestock husbandry and industrial processes producing air pollution, noxious fumes or waste products, noise, etc.

### (b) Local Land Charges

Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register .. .. . 1,021

### (c) Nuisances—Effluvia

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

### (d) Nuisances—Keeping of Animals and Poultry

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

### (e) Animal Boarding Establishments

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

### (f) Pet Shops

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

### (g) Waste Food Boiling Premises

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31

### (h) Rag Flock Stores

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

### (i) Notifiable Diseases

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

### (j) Special Reports

One special report was submitted to the Council by the Public Health Officer during the year on “Survey of the villages of Lamarsh, Middleton, Tilbury-juxta-Clare and Little Yeldham re Public Sewerage Need”.

### (k) Training of Public Health Workers

Several students (Public Health Workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.

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